PRAYERS TO
SAINT JOSEPH
(WITH NOVENA)

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Prayers To St. Joseph
(With Novena)

The Sovereign Pontiff, Pius IX, by a rescript of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, dated March 26, 1876, granted to the faithful who, using a prescribed form of prayer approved by competent ecclesiastical authority, will make at any time during the year, a Novena in honor of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary:

An indulgence of 300 days, each day;

*A plenary indulgence during the Novena. Conditions: Confession, Communion and prayers for the Sovereign Pontiff's intention.**

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Nihil Obstat:

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Prayer Before the Novena

O great St. Joseph, prostrate at thy feet, with feelings of unlimited confidence, I beg thee to bless the Novena that I begin in thy honor. I will meditate upon thy virtues; grant that I may learn fully to appreciate them. The knowledge of them will be the source of great confusion for me because of the poverty and destitution of my soul.

Great dispenser of the heavenly treasures assist me in my poverty, help me to display thy virtues in my own soul. "Thou art never invoked in vain," says the seraphic Theresa of Jesus; be thou to me what thou hast been to that Spouse of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; graciously hearken to me as thou didst hearken to her. Amen.

I

NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH

FIRST DAY

St. Joseph, Model of the Life of Faith

The words of the great Apostle: "The just man liveth by faith," may be applied particularly to St. Joseph who was the most just of men and whose life was ever guided by faith.

Joseph submitted his intelligence to the holy truths of religion. He applied his heart from his tenderest infancy to the observance of the divine precepts.

In the trials and sorrows of life, Joseph was sustained by faith. He shaped his whole conduct by the desire to please God and he attained the great aim of man upon earth, which is to adore God, to serve Him, and hence to deserve the everlasting Truth.

Let us glorify this great Servant of God who possessed a faith so universal, so simple, so enlightened, so firm, so constant and, above all, so fruitful in good works.

Let us examine ourselves with regard to

this great virtue and see how we resemble him.

Is my faith firm, unshaken? Is my conduct animated by faith? Is the predominant thought that directs my acts to please God, and to obtain merit for everlasting life? Have I tried to derive consolation and strength from the thought of faith in time of trial?

Prayer

O great Saint, model of the just living by faith, revive that virtue in our souls. May it be the principle, the motive, the aim of all my actions; my consolation and my strength in the trials of this life, and the source of abundant merit for everlasting life. Amen.

SECOND DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Hope

Joseph, abandoning himself entirely to the care of Divine Providence, glorified God by his life.

Among all the virtues, hope is the most pleasing to God, because it is based upon His infinite goodness. In the sufferings of

this life it is the source of the greatest consolation and encouragement.

Joseph hoped in the Lord. He hoped for His grace in the accomplishment of His adorable will; for His help in time of trial; for His light in the difficulties of life. By hope he detached his heart from the perishable goods and the deceitful affections of this world. In the hour of trial he sustained his courage by hope, and fortified his heart with a peace that nothing could alter.

Let us imitate St. Joseph. Let us elevate our hopes towards the only veritable and imperishable treasures. Let us trust in the wisdom and solicitude of Divine Providence. Let us rely upon the grace of the Lord; upon His goodness, and upon His power. Let us renew our confidence in the hour of trial. Let us avoid discouragement, which outrages the wisdom and goodness of God.

Prayer

O Joseph, do thou cause the gift of Christian hope to descend into my heart. May it enlighten me, console me, defend me. May it detach me from the earth so

as to elevate my thoughts and my affections towards Heaven. May it henceforward inspire my whole conduct and give me the right to die like thee, saying: "Lord, I have hoped in Thee; I shall not be confounded."

THIRD DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Charity

Joseph loved God from his earliest youth and loved Him during his whole life. Joseph loved God with his whole heart, with his whole soul, with his whole strength. Joseph loved God with a love of preference, giving Him his first affections, and cutting off his heart from all that could hinder or alter his love for his Lord and Sovereign Master.

Joseph loved God with a love of union, keeping himself constantly united to God by prayer, meditation, the thought of His holy presence, and the most perfect conformity to the will of God.

Joseph loved God with a love of immolation which prompted him to perfect devotedness, enabling him to perform with joy the greatest and most numerous sacrifices. Joseph loved God with a love of

perseverance that experienced neither decrease nor alteration. He always loved God with all his power to love, and constantly endeavored to love Him more and more.

Prayer

Blessed Saint, enkindle in my cold heart a spark of thy charity. May God be always the first and only object of my affections. Keep always my soul in sanctifying peace, and, if I should be so unhappy as to lose it, give me the strength to recover it immediately by a sincere repentance.

Grant me such a love of my God as will always keep me united to Him, and will be the principle and motive of all my actions. Grant me a generous love that will make me overcome all obstacles, and accept the greatest sacrifices rather than separate myself from the charity of my God. Amen

FOURTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Purity

"How beautiful is the chaste generation!" (Wisd. iv.).

"The whole weight of gold is as nothing

in comparison with a pure soul" (Eccles. xxv.).

St. Joseph was preëminent in purity because he feared God and faithfully observed His holy law; because he safeguarded his virtue by fear of the Sovereign Good and by prudence; because he sheltered it under the virginity of Mary, and felt the influence of Jesus, the divine Sun of all sanctity.

How pure must he have been who was to become the worthy spouse of the Immaculate Virgin! How holy must he have been whose relations with the thrice holy God were so intimate.

Prayer

O Joseph, help me to understand the excellence of purity, and how dear it is to the heart of God. Teach me to preserve carefully this delicate virtue under the shadow of the fear of God; to safeguard it by prayer, by vigilance, by shunning the world, by careful watch over my heart and my senses. Grant that I may henceforward close my heart to all disorderly affections; that I may deserve to enjoy like thee upon earth the friendship and inti-

macy of Jesus, and that it may be given to me one day to sing in Heaven the canticle reserved for Virgins.

FIFTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Humility

Joseph excelled in humility because he realized that glory is due to God alone, and that, of himself, man is but misery and nothingness.

By reason of his humility Joseph was accorded the most glorious privileges and entrusted with the most sublime mission. To accomplish His designs, God employs only the humble who do not claim for themselves the glory.

As Foster Father of Jesus and Spouse of the Queen of Heaven and earth, Joseph was more highly honored than any king in this world. What pretexts, furnished by zeal for the glory of God, might have prompted him to speak, to put himself forward, to attribute to himself the greatness of the precursor of the Messiah, and the glories of the apostles! He rather conceals the astonishing prodigies which have been revealed to him, and the sublimity of the

functions he exercises. Under an impenetrable veil he hides all that can draw upon him the esteem of men.

Prayer

O Joseph, what a lesson for me ever so eager to appear, so anxious to display before the eyes of men the graces that I owe entirely to the liberality of God. Obtain that I may attribute to God the glory of all things; that I may love the humble and hidden life; that I may not desire any other position than the one given me by Providence; and that I may always be a docile instrument in the hands of God.

SIXTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Patience

Consider how Joseph suffered in his lifetime. He tasted, indeed, ineffable consolations, but he also endured much suffering. In contrast with the glories of his fallen family, his life was a life of labor and self-denial.

What did he not have to suffer, especially after the Incarnation of the Son of God? It is verily Joseph who experienced

that wherever Jesus enters, He comes with His Cross and His Crown of Thorns.

He suffers in perfect conformity with the Divine Will. Joseph renews his courage in the hope of eternal joys and treasures, in the examples of patience which are given him by Jesus and Mary. Thus, whatever may be his trials they cannot trouble the peace of his soul.

Prayer

O Joseph, model of patience, teach me this virtue which is so necessary in the midst of the sufferings and trials of this sorrowful life.

Grant that your example and that of Mary, as well as the hope of celestial joys, may ever renew my courage. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Prudence

Let us honor in St. Joseph the faithful and prudent servant to whom Almighty God entrusted the care of His family.

Prudence inspired St. Joseph to adopt as the foundation and rule of his conduct, the great principles of faith; God, the end of

man in this world; God, the reward of man in eternity.

Remembering that life is short and uncertain, that upon a moment may depend our eternity, St. Joseph wisely employs his time. He is careful to make a holy use of his senses and his other faculties in order to give to his Lord and Master a faithful account of the talents entrusted to him; he watches over the world around him, yielding to the world in the measure willed by God, but not giving himself up to it. He makes within himself a retreat accessible to God alone and impenetrable to creatures.

Prayer

O faithful and prudent servant, watch over my weakness and my inexperience; obtain for me that prudence which reminds me of my end, which directs my paths, and which protects me from every danger. Amen.

EIGHTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Obedience

Joseph regarded obedience as rendering man particularly pleasing to God.

What esteem Joseph had particularly

for obedience, when he heard Mary answering the Angel: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word!" When he saw Jesus submit to his orders, anticipate his wishes, execute them faithfully and promptly! When he considered that the Incarnate Word would be obedient until death, even the death of the Cross.

Prayer

O Joseph, so faithful to display in thy conduct the obedience of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this important virtue.

Obtain for me a perfect docility of heart to accomplish the will of God, and that of those who replace Him. Inspire me by your example, to obey with promptness and generosity; obtain for me above all, the grace to obey without murmuring, without reasoning upon the orders given me, in spite of every pretext, and with an entire immolation of my own will.

NINTH DAY

St. Joseph, Model of Detachment

St. Joseph loved poverty because it detaches man from all passing and perishable

goods, delivers the soul from dangerous obstacles, and from a thousand evils and cares, and permits him to keep his eyes raised toward Heaven, instead of stooping, like a slave, toward the earth.

St. Joseph loved poverty, because he saw it practised in the highest degree by Jesus Christ. Did he not regard it as a hidden and priceless treasure, when he contemplated Jesus in His abnegation, when he saw Him stretch out His divine hands to ask for the most necessary needs of life?

St. Joseph suffered the privations of life with patience, without murmur of complaint, using his poverty to detach himself more and more from worldly goods, and to seek the goods of Heaven.

Prayer

O Joseph, make me understand the excellence of poverty. Grant that I may enter into the interior dispositions which animated thee in regard to that virtue. Disclose to me the snares of riches, the dangers which are attached to them, the solicitude which they engender.

Make me understand how much God favors us, when he refuses us riches, since

he furnishes us a precious occasion to detach us from ourselves and from creatures, and to increase our merit for Heaven.

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

(For the happy death and the conversion of dying sinners)

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

St. Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster Father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
} *Pray for us*

Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of laborers,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,
Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

V. He made him the lord of His household.

R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let Us Pray

O God, Who in Thy ineffable providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have for our advocate in heaven him whom we venerate as our protector on earth: Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

II

GENERAL PRAYERS

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

O Blessed St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor, and give myself to thee that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thy example may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.

The Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief before thou didst understand that the mystery of the Incarnation was wrought in Mary, and by thy joy when that mystery was revealed to thee—obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief at witnessing the cold and poverty of Jesus in the manger of Bethlehem, and by thy joy on hearing the hymns of the angels, and beholding the adoration of the kings—obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief when thou didst behold the precious blood of Jesus flow in His circumcision and by thy joy on hearing the sweet name of Jesus —obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief when Simeon foretold that a sword should pierce the soul of Mary, and by thy joy

on hearing that the Divine Infant would be for the salvation of many—obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief when thou didst fly with Jesus into Egypt, and by thy joy on beholding the idols fall —obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief on hearing of the cruelty of Archelaus and by thy joy when the angel bade thee return to Galilee—obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Most Glorious St. Joseph, by thy grief at the loss of Jesus, and by thy joy at finding Him again sitting in the midst of the doctors in the Temple—obtain the favors I implore.

(Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be to the Father, etc.)

Thirty Days' Prayer to St. Joseph

(For Any Special Intention)

Ever Blessed and Glorious Joseph, kind and indulgent father, and compassionate friend of all in sorrow! through the bitter grief, with which thy heart was saturated when thou didst behold the sufferings of the infant Savior, and in prophetic views did contemplate His most ignominous passion and death, take pity, I beseech thee, on my poverty and necessity, counsel me in my doubts, and console me in all my anxieties. Thou art the good father and protector of orphans, the advocate of the defenceless, the patron of those who are in need and desolation. Do not then disregard the petition of thy poor child; my sins have drawn down upon me the just displeasure of my God, and hence I am surrounded with sorrows. To thee, O loving guardian of the poor neglected Family of Nazareth, do I fly for shelter and protection.

Listen, then, I entreat of thee, with a father's solicitude, to the earnest prayer of thy poor supplicant, and obtain for me the object of my petition. I ask it by that infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God,

which induced Him to assume our nature, and to be born into this world of sorrow. I ask it by that humility which filled thy heart, when awed by the mystery wrought in thy Immaculate Spouse, thou didst regard thyself as unworthy of her.

I ask it by that weariness, solicitude, and suffering, which thou didst endure when thou soughtest in vain at the Inn of Bethlehem a shelter for the Holy Virgin, and a birthplace for the Infant God, and, when being everywhere refused, thou wert obliged to consent that the Queen of Heaven should give birth to the world's Redeemer in a wretched stable.

I ask it by the painful blood-shedding thou didst witness at His Circumcision. I ask it by the sweetness and power of the sacred name, JESUS, which thou didst confer on the adorable Infant. I ask it by that mortal anguish inflicted on thee, by the prophecy of holy Simeon, which declared the Child Jesus and His Holy Mother to be the future victims of our sins, and of their own great love for us. I ask it through that sorrow and anguish which filled thy soul, when the angel declared to thee that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies, from whose im-

pious design thou wert obliged to fly with Him and His blessed Mother into Egypt.

I ask it by all the pains, fatigues and toils of that long and perilous journey. I ask it by all the sorrows thou didst endure when in Egypt, when sometimes thou wert unable, even by the sweat of thy brow, to procure daily food for thy poor Family.

I ask it by all thy solicitude to preserve the Sacred Child and His Immaculate Mother, during thy second journey, when thou wert ordered to return to thy native country. I ask it by thy peaceful dwelling in Nazareth, in which so many joys and sorrows were mingled. I ask it by thy extreme affliction, in being three days deprived of the company of the Adorable Child. I ask it by thy joy at finding Him in the temple, and by the unspeakable consolation imparted to thee in the cottage of Nazareth, while living in the society of the Infant Jesus. I ask it by that wonderful condescension, by which He subjected Himself to thy will.

I ask it through that sorrowful foresight thou hadst continually in thy mind, of all the Infant Jesus was to suffer, when thou shouldst be no longer by His side.

I ask it by that painful contemplation, by which thou foresawest those divine Infant Hands and Feet, now so active in serving thee, one day pierced with cruel nails; that Head which rested gently on thy breast, crowned with sharp thorns; that delicate Body, which thou didst tenderly fold in thy mantle and press to thy heart, stripped, mangled, and extended on a cross.

I ask it by that heroic sacrifice of thy will and best affections, by which thou didst offer up to the Eternal Father the last awful moment, when the Man God was to expire for our salvation.

I ask it by that perfect love and conformity, with which thou didst receive the divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of Jesus and Mary. I ask it by that exceeding great joy which filled thy soul, when the Redeemer of the world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into possession of His kingdom, and conducted thee also into it with especial honors. I ask it through Mary's glorious Assumption, and through that endless bliss, which with her thou wilt eternally derive from the presence of God.

O, good father! I beseech thee, by all

thy sufferings, sorrows, joys, hear me, and obtain the grant of my earnest petitions. [*Here name them or reflect on them.*] Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers, all that is useful to them in the designs of God. And finally, my dear patron and father, be thou with me and all who are dear to me, in our last moments, that we may eternally chant the praises of

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.

"A blameless life, St. Joseph, may we lead,
By thy kind patronage, from danger freed."

Indulgence of 300 days.—Leo XII.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Composed by Pius X

O Glorious St. Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; to gratefully and joyously deem it an honor to employ and develop by labor the gifts I have received from God; to work methodically, peacefully, and in moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty; to work, above all, with purity

of intention and unselfishness, having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I shall have to render of time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success, so baneful to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate thee, O patriarch St. Joseph. This shall be my motto for life and eternity. Amen.

(O Lord, preserve in us the Faith. 100 days' indulgence—Pius X.)

Prayer to St. Joseph

(For October Devotions)

To thee, O Blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of thy thrice holy Spouse, we now, with hearts filled with confidence, earnestly beg thee also to take us under thy protection. By that charity, wherewith thou wert united to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and by that fatherly love, with which thou didst cherish the Child Jesus, we beseech thee and we humbly pray that thou wilt look down with gracious eyes upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His Blood, and

wilt succor us in our need by thy power and strength.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness, and even as of old, thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, imitating thy example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who implored thy help and sought thy intercession was left unassisted. Full of confidence in thy power, I fly unto thee, and beg thy protection. Despise not, O Foster Father of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in thy bounty hear and answer me.

(Indulgence of 300 days, once a day, applicable to the souls in Purgatory. Pius IX, June 26, 1863.)

III

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Efficacious Prayer to St. Joseph

O Glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favor we now implore. *(Name the request . . .)*

O Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Say the Following Versicle Seven Times

V. O Glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name.

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Prayer to St. Joseph to Obtain a Special Favor

O Blessed St. Joseph, tender-hearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, I pray and beseech thee, to offer to God the Father, His divine Son, bathed in blood on the Cross for sinners, and through the thrice holy Name of Jesus obtain for us of the eternal Father the favor we implore. . . .

Appease the Divine anger so justly inflamed by our crimes; beg of Jesus mercy for thy children. Amid the splendors of eternity, forget not the sorrows of earth; be mindful of those who suffer, those who pray, those who weep; stay the Almighty arm which smites us, that by thy prayers and those of thy holy Spouse, the Heart of Jesus may be moved to pity and to pardon. Amen.

St. Joseph, *pray for us.*

Petition to St. Joseph for Holy Purity

Guardian of Virgins and Holy Father Joseph, to whose faithful care Jesus, innocence itself, and Mary, Virgin of Virgins, were committed, I pray and beseech thee

by these dear pledges, Jesus and Mary, that, being preserved from all uncleanness, I may with spotless mind, pure heart, and chaste body ever most chastely serve Jesus and Mary all the days of my life.

Prayer for the Dying

O Blessed Joseph, who didst yield thy Jesus Christ and true spouse of the blessed Mother, pray for us and for all who are now in their agony and who are to die today. St. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for the dying.

Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O Blessed St. Joseph, Foster Father of last breath in the fond embrace of Jesus and of Mary, when death shall close my career, come, Holy Father, with Jesus and Mary, to aid me, and obtain for me the only solace which I ask at that hour . . . to die under their protection. Living and dying, into your sacred hands, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Family

O most loving Jesus, Who by Thy ineffable virtues and by the example of Thy

domestic life didst consecrate the Family which Thou didst choose on earth, in Thy clemency look down upon us humbly prostrate before Thee and imploring Thy mercy.

O Mary most sweet Mother, to thy intercession we have recourse, knowing that thy Divine Son will hear thy prayers.

And do thou, O Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, assist us by thy powerful mediation and offer by the hands of Mary our prayers to Jesus.

IV

EJACULATIONS

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

(300 days' indulgence each time all three invocations are recited; 100 days when one only is recited. Pius VII, April 28, 1807.)

Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

(Seven years and seven quarantines each time. Plenary once a month. Pius X, June 8, 1906.)

Help us, Joseph, in our earthly strife,
E'r to lead a pure and blameless life.

(Indulgence of 300 days, once a day Leo XIII, March 18, 1882.)

St. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart pray for us.

(Indulgence, 100 days.)

St. Joseph, Foster Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and true Spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, pray for us.

(300 days' indulgence, once a day. Leo XIII.)

HYMN

Dear Guardian of Mary, Dear Nurse of Her Child

Dear Guardian of Mary, dear nurse of her child!
Life's ways are full weary, the desert is wild,
Bleak sands are all round us, no home can we see;
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! we lean upon thee.

For thou to the pilgrim art father and guide,
And Jesus and Mary felt safe at thy side;
Ah! Blessed St. Joseph, how safe should I be,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! if thou wert with me.

O blessed St. Joseph! how great was thy worth;
The one chosen shadow of God upon earth;
The father of Jesus—ah! then wilt thou be
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! a father to me.

When the treasures of God were unsheltered on earth,
Safe keeping was found for them both in thy worth;
O Father of Jesus! be father to me,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! and I will love thee.

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